

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-05 IO-13 /105 W
-----080775 191522Z /72

R 180440Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7274
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 0623

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, FJ
SUBJECT: COURTESY CALL ON PRC AMBASSADOR

1. PRC AMBASSADOR MI KUO CHUN RECEIVED ME WITH WARM CORDIALITY WHEN I PAID HIM A COURTESY CALL ON 13 APRIL. HE WAS RELAXED, SELF-CONFIDENT, FAIRLY FORTHCOMING AND SMILED READILY. HE DESCRIBED MY ARRIVAL AS A WELCOME ADDITION TO THE SMALL GROUP OF DIPLOMATS IN SUVA AND THROUGHOUT FULL 45 MINUTES OF MY VISIT REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SEEING EACH OTHER OFTEN WHICH I RECIPROCTATED.

2. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO FIJI MEANS INCREASED U.S. INTEREST NOT ONLY IN
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FIJI BUT ENTIRE SOUTH PACIFIC. HE FOUND IT REASSURING THAT PEOPLE AND LEADERS OF FIJI ARE VERY FRIENDLY TO THE U.S. AND HAVE "SUCH A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE U.S. RELATIONS WITH CHINA" WHILE CONTINUING TO HAVE RESERVATIONS TOWARD CHINA'S NEIGHBOR IN THE NORTH. I REPLIED BY CONFIRMING THAT MY ASSIGNMENT SHOULD BE SEEN AS FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF TRADITIONAL U.S. INTEREST IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND THAT THE U.S. IS INDEED

PLEASED THAT FIJI RECIPROCATES OUR FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS
THE ISLANDS.

3. MI DREW SATISFACTION FROM THE FACT THAT THE SOUTH PACIFIC
ISLANDS ARE UNITED WITH REGARD TO PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF
THE AREA FROM ANY UNWELCOME INFLUENCE. WHEN I REMARKED THAT THERE
IS EVIDENCE OF SOME JEALOUSIES AMONG SOME OF THE ISLANDS
HE AGREED WITH A SMILE BUT MAINTAINED THAT THE ISLANDS ARE IN
AGREEMENT ON THE ESSENTIAL POINTS OF COMMON INTEREST.

4. ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES MI WELCOMED THE FACT THAT
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ARE PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN THE AREA
AND HAVE ASSUMED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS.
HE THOUGHT THAT THESE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO
CONTINUE TO CARRY THIS RESPONSIBILITY. I AGREED WITH HIM.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE SAID THAT HE IS IN CONTACT WITH
THE UNDP DIRECTOR IN SUVA. HE EXCHANGES INFORMATION WITH HIM BUT
UNLIKE THE U.S. THE CHINESE FAVOR BILATERAL RATHER THAN
MULTILATERAL AID. THIS WAS A REFLECTION ON MY EARLIER STATEMENT
(IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION) THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLIC
AFFAIRS OFFICER THE EMBASSY EXPECTED THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN AID
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF REGIONAL AID PROJECTS.

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6. ASKED IF HIS EMBASSY IS PRESENTLY CARRYING OUT ANY AID PROJECTS IN FIJI OR IS PLANNING ANY FOR THE FUTURE HE RESPONDED IN THE NEGATIVE ADDING THAT THE CHINESE POLICY IS TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FROM THE HOST COUNTRY RATHER THAN TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO PROPOSE AID. THE FRENCH CHARGE TOLD ME THAT WHEN HE ASKED MI THE SAME QUESTION A FEW WEEKS AGO HE ANSWERED THAT PRC IS POOR AND DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROPOSE ANY AID TO COUNTRIES LIKE FIJI.

7. ASKED ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT TO JAPAN HE CONFIRMED THAT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT HE HAD MET PRESIDENT FORD WHEN HE STOPPED IN TOKYO ON HIS WAY TO CHINA. HE EAGERLY ADDED THAT HE HAD MET ALSO FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON BOTH ON HIS WAY TO AND FROM CHINA SPECIFYING THAT ON THE LATER OCCASION HE HAD BOARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE BECAUSE OF NIXON'S
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RELUCTANCE TO SEE THE PRESS IN THE TOKYO AIRPORT. AT THAT TIME HE CONFERRED WITH HIM FOR ALMOST AN HOUR.

8. HE PROCEEDED TO ADD WORDS OF ADMIRATION FOR NIXON'S ROLE IN OPENING THE SINO-AMERICAN DIALOGUE CONCLUDING WITH THE HOPE THAT THE PRESENT PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE HIS DIALOGUE AND WILL VISIT CHINA. I ASSURED HIM THAT PRES. CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION IS PURSUING THE SAME POLICY OF A US-PRC DIALOGUE BUT ADDED THAT SOME AMERICANS ARE WONDERING WHEN THE TIME WILL COME WHEN A LEADING CHINESE PERSONALITY WOULD RECIPROCATATE THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS' VISITS TO CHINA BY VISITING THE U.S. HE SMILED AND GENTLY SUGGESTED THERE ARE STILL SOME PROBLEMS THAT MAKE SUCH A VISIT DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE SUCH AS THE PRESENCE OF THE TAIWAN EMBASSY AND DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON. HE WENT ON TO MAKE AN EQUALLY GENTLE REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF NORMALIZATION OF THE US-PRC RELATIONS. HE WELCOMED MY OBSERVATION THAT THERE ARE ENOUGH PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON AND PEKING WORRYING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM FOR US TO WISH TO JOIN THEM.

9. AS I WAS TAKING MY LEAVE I MADE A COMMENT THAT PERHAPS WHEN WE GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER HE WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SPEAK WITH ME IN ENGLISH SINCE I HAD THE FEELING THAT HE DOES SPEAK ENGLISH. HE SMILED BUT SAID ALWAYS THROUGH THE INTERPRETER THAT HIS ENGLISH IS NOT ALL THAT GOOD. AS HE SAW ME TO THE CAR HE VENTURED HIS ONLY ENGLISH PHRASE BY SAYING THAT IT WAS GOOD THAT IT WAS NOT SO HOT IN SUVA THESE DAYS.

10. INTERESTINGLY THE EMBASSY'S INDIAN DRIVER WAS INVITED ALSO TO HAVE TEA BY A YOUNG WOMAN AND A MAN IN MI'S STAFF.

11. COMMENT: MI LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HE WOULD WELCOME GOOD

RELATIONS WITH THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR AND MADE A SUCCESSFUL
EFFORT TO AVOID ANY CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES OR VIEWS. EVEN HIS
REFERENCE TO THE NORMALIZATION QUESTION WAS MADE IN SUCH MANNER AS TO
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PREVENT THIS ISSUE FROM INTERFERING WITH OUR RELATIONS IN SUVA.
HE WALKED INTO THE RECEPTION ROOM AT THE EMBASSY WHICH SERVES
ALSO AS THE RESIDENCE IMMEDIATELY AS SOON AS I ARRIVED AFTER
HAVING BEEN MET BY HIS INTERPRETER THUS AVOIDING MY HAVING TO
WAIT AT ALL. FROM THERE ON HE MAINTAINED AN
ATMOSPHERE OF UNMISTAKABLE CORDIALITY, I RESPONDED IN KIND.

12. THE ANTI-SOVIET EDGE ON MI'S REMARKS AND BEHAVOIR IS
OBVIOUS. HE WELCOMED THE U.S. INTEREST IN FIJI AND NEW
ZEALANDS AND AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN THE AREA IN THE OBVIOUS HOPE
THAT BOTH WILL SUCCEED IN KEEPING THE USSR OUT.
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